However, they are not interested in mining or processing titanium, but would like to assure purchase and encourage technology tie ups if we can set up a joint venture for mining and processing titanium in India.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, a MoU was signed between the Government of Kerala and Rosoboronexport of Russia (a Federal State Unitary Enterprise) in May, 2007 to make use of Ilmenite resources in Kerala to manufacture titanium sponge and other value added products. A Joint Working Group has been formed to prepare a techno-economic feasibility report.

Creation of a SPV

1213. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that select PSUs are creating a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to acquire coal mines abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for such a step; and

(d) the countries which have been identified for such acquisitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) A proposal initiated by Ministry of Steel for creating Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) comprising of Steel Authority of India Limited, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Coal India Limited, National Thermal Power Corporation Limited and National Mineral Development Corporation Limited is under consideration of Government. The main objective is to ensure supply of imported metallurgical coal to meet the requirements of public sector steel plants who have undertaken massive expansion programmes.

(d) No country has been identified for acquisition of coal mines abroad by the SPV.

Non-utilisation of coal blocks

1214. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Parliamentary Committee has criticized the Ministry of Coal for failing to ensure development of captive coal blocks allotted as back as 1998;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the lackadaisical approach of his Ministry in monitoring the progress of captive coal blocks allotted to different parties has resulted in non-utilization coal blocks for exploration of coal; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to develop the coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demand for Grants